



**Safety Committee Minutes  
Wednesday, May 27, 2015**

Call to Order:

Chair Leslie Miller called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Present: Chair Leslie Miller, Brad Demiter and Alternate Larry Landis

Absent: Kathy Rhoads had a prior work commitment.

Approval of Minutes:

Brad Demiter made a motion to approve the Safety Meeting Minutes of April 22, 2015, and the motion was seconded by Chair Miller. One aye vote. Brad Demiter and Larry Landis abstained. The minutes were approved as written.

Privilege of the Floor:

Mr. Landis introduced Kiefer Miller. Mr. Miller has graduated from the Police Academy.

Chief's Report:

Chief Burson has reported that all of the Seville Department Police Officers have served the community professionally and have all returned home safely. The officers have been participating in continued training including enforcement training of drunk and drug impairment, use of force training, and sexual assault investigation. Officer Phillips set up a "shoot don't shoot" training in the garage using props.

The Village of Seville now has two officers involved with the OVI Task Force. Officer Houck was sworn in today. The involvement helps promote the community.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol reports on their website show Medina County has had 642 accidents and 77 OVI arrests. This information is used to figure areas to target and set up check points. Chief Burson stated this project is personal for him due to his children being drivers on the road. Chief Burson pointed out that everyone in the room is affected. Chief Burson is proud of the department and appreciates the support to allow them to participate in the program.

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Chief's Report (continued):

There have been 51 officers killed in the line of duty so far in 2015. In 1962 President John F. Kennedy designated May 15<sup>th</sup> as Police Memorial Day and whatever week that falls in becomes Police Memorial Week for reflection and appreciation of the sacrifices made. Chief Burson explained that the Village of Seville Police Department is involved with behind the scenes such as Auxiliary Officer Don Searle was in charge of organizing the parade. Officer Phillips drives around the county and visits graves of the police officers and places markers. Officer Fockler and Officer Houck attended The Police Memorial Parade in Cleveland earlier this month. Chief Burson shared a picture of Officer Houck in the Cleveland Plain Dealer at the Police Memorial Parade. Chief Burson is touched by the picture with professionalism shown, the highest form of respect is given with the salute and there are rain drops on the brim of his hat. This was also the officers' day off. Chief Burson is very proud.

Chief Burson does have some uncheerful news. After nine years of service as an EMT and twenty-four years on the Police Department Staff Sgt. Ivan Reed is retiring. He has submitted his paperwork to the state and at this time the length of the process is undetermined. This process could take two to six months. Sgt. Reed is currently on a medical leave and will not be returning to the schedule. Chief Burson has expressed Sgt. Reed has been a compassionate face on the police department and wishes him well on the next phase of his journey. The plan will be to honor his service at the end of July.

Chief Burson is now left with a void in the department and is limited by the village ordinance on having one Staff Sgt. The Staff Sgt. is critical to the operation. Chief Burson is asking for an ordinance to allow for a promotion of a second Staff Sgt. and requested emergency language. Chief Burson feels he has a number of competent and qualified officers. However, one officer has previously served in a number of administrative and supervisory positions in a large department. He has served as detective, a patrol Sgt., a patrol administrative Sgt., a Sgt. in a detective bureau, a Sgt. in a corrections division where he oversaw the operation of the jail. Officer Phillips is currently in year four of his three year commitment. Chief Burson is asking that Officer Phillips be brought up to level 4 in pay. Chief Burson asked for the Committee's blessing to begin the search for a new officer as it is a lengthy process. The plan would be to have the new officer in place by the time Sgt. Reed retires.

Chief Burson asks permission to scrap an old police car that has been used as prop and is not salvageable.

Chief Burson said he is working with Mr. Sobczak for help with the Yard Sale.

Chair Miller shared she was on the Washington DC trip with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class. On the bus was Deputy Dave Pries, not knowing Chair Miller, he gave high praise of the Village of Seville Police Department.

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Pending Legislation

2015-09 - an ordinance authorizing the mayor to enter into a contract with the Medina County Sheriff's office for dispatch services. The invoice was received and the ordinance was passed May 11th. There was an increase of approximately \$900 from last year.

2015-25 - an ordinance to set forth the number of full time police officers employed. This will go to Council on June 8<sup>th</sup>. The Committee will recommend moving Officer Phillips to Staff Sgt. position. The Committee gave Chief Burson their blessing to start the hiring process for a new officer.

Old Business:

The discussion for updating the officer's employee package will be discussed at a later time.

Privilege of the Floor:

Mr. Sobczak spoke that he witnessed Officer Phillips in action. Mr. Sobczak could not say enough about Officer Phillips' professionalism, tact, training and discipline he used to take a hostile situation and turn it around. Chair Miller seconded that sentiment and reminded everyone she has said for sixteen years that Seville has the best officers.

Mayor Sulzener expressed he is supportive of the recommendation of Officer Phillips being promoted.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Larry Landis and was seconded by Chair Miller. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, .



Leslie Miller  
Safety Committee Chair